

REMARKS

Minor amendments have been made to claim 1 based upon the Examiner's comments at pages 8-9 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 7-10 AND 13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY KLUG (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,790,785):

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, for example, relates to a membership management system. The membership management system comprises at least one apparatus connected via a network; a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites; and a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein **when a user makes an application for a registration of membership information at one of the service provision sites by using said apparatus, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application first registers the membership information into the database held by the one of the service provision sites, and then subsequently when the user is not registered in the database held by the integrated membership management center, the membership information of the user is transferred from the one of the service provision sites to the integrated membership management center and registered into the database held by the integrated membership management center**, wherein the membership information comprises a user ID and a password and the integrated membership management center allows the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.

Again, the Applicant respectfully submits that Klug fails to disclose the features as recited in claim 1, for example.

In contrast, Klug merely discloses a WWW registration website used as a repository for registration information used by a user so that the user can request the registration information to be transferred to a plurality of websites for which the user wishes to register (see column 1, line 60- column 2, line 2; and the Abstract, for example). That is, Klug fails to disclose that the registration information is first registered at a third party website and then subsequently registered at the registration website. Instead, in Klug, the user either registers directly at the registration website or at a client node of the user's WWW browser via an optional registration module so that when the user desired to register at a new website, the registration information is provided to the new website from the registration module residing on the user's client node (see column 2, lines 37-49, for example).

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Klug discloses the features as recited in claim 1, for example, at steps 432-436 as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B of Klug. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. At steps 432-440, the user submits a registration fill-out form to the third party website and indicates whether the registration information may be obtained from the registration website and providing a user ID and password for the registration web site to be used as identification, and the third party website then obtains the user's registration data from the registration website in order to grant access to the desired third party website. That is, in Klug, the user must first be registered at either the registration website or the registration module in order to be able to register at the third party website.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Klug fails to recite the features as recited in claim 1, for example.

Thus, the teachings of Klug are fundamentally different from that of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, for example. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited reference.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5-6, 11-12 AND 14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER KLUG IN VIEW OF HUNT (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,496,855):

The comments mentioned above in Section I, may be applied here also, where applicable.

Further, the Applicant respectfully submits that Hunt fails to make up for the deficiencies of Klug as mentioned above, in Section I. That is, neither Klug nor Hunt, individually or combined, disclose "a searching unit searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides with **new membership information corresponding to an application for membership first completed by a user at one of the service provision sites to obtain access to the one of the service provision sites, from an apparatus**; and a database subsequently registering the new membership information first completed by the user at one of the service provision sites when the searching unit determines that the user is not registered in the database, allowing the user to use a same user ID and password to access the service provision sites," as recited in claim 5, for example.

In response to the Examiner's comments at page 10 of the Office Action, although Hunt discloses at FIG. 5, step 305 the transferring of site login details to RAS (the registration agent site), Hunt also asserts that step 305 occurs when the internet user is **already** a member of **both** the RAS and the referring website. That is, in Hunt the user is not registering at the referring

website for the first time, and then subsequently transferring the new registration information to RAS to complete registration in RAS. Instead, in Hunt, the user may merely modify and recall existing information via the interface previously registered in RAS.

As mentioned by the Examiner on page 10, of the Office Action, the teaching of Hunt is fundamentally different from that of Klug. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation to combine these references. Thus, it would be not obvious to combine these references.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited references.

Therefore, the combination of Klug and Hunt fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the claimed invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

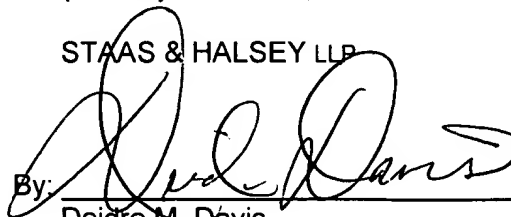
Respectfully submitted,

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